

2006

TOWN OF AMHERST

WARRANT

and

FINANCIALS

2006 TOWN MEETING

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, the services of an interpreter will be provided as requested. Such requests must be received in the Amherst Board of Selectmen's Office, Town Hall, Amherst, NH, at least two (2) calendar weeks prior to the event. The Town will attempt to honor any request received after this time period.

AMHERST TOWN WARRANT

**The State of New Hampshire
March 14, 2006**

Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Souhegan High School

To the inhabitants of the Town of Amherst in the County of Hillsborough and State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the Town of Amherst will be held, in accordance with "Senate Bill 2" (NH RSA 40:13). The first session, to transact all business other than voting, is on Wednesday, February 8, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Souhegan High School Auditorium. The second session, voting by official ballot at the polls is on Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at the Souhegan High School from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Article 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing terms as follows:

- 2 Selectman for 3 Years
- 1 Treasurer for 3 Years
- 1 Moderator for 2 Years
- 2 Library Trustees for 3 Years
- 2 Zoning Board of Adjustment Members for 3 Years
- 1 Trustee of the Trust Funds for 3 Years
- 1 Cemetery Trustee for 3 Years
- 1 Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 Years

Article 2: (Baboosic Lake Bond) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred eighteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$418,500) to construct Phase II and design Phase III of the Baboosic Lake Community Septic System, of which, one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) will be provided by a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Watershed Restoration Grant and sixty thousand (\$60,000), of which, is to be provided from the State of New Hampshire State Aid Grant and to authorize the issuance of bonds, bond anticipation notes or serial notes therefore of not more than one hundred seventy eight thousand five hundred dollars (\$178,500) in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and other conditions of the bond in their judgment, and to further authorize the Selectmen to contract for and expend any State aid that may be available for this project and to further authorize interest earned on this bond to be utilized to pay costs associated with this project, and to take all other action relative thereto. No dollars will be raised through taxation and any cost associated with this project will be assessed in

accordance with RSA 149:1-7. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32. 3/5 Ballot Vote Required.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)

This Article has no tax impact.

Article 3: (Increase Recycling Capacity and Improve Traffic Flow and Safety at the Transfer Station Bond) To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) to increase recycling capacity, and improve access, traffic flow and safety at the Amherst Transfer Station and to authorize the issuance of not more than three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) of bonds, bond anticipation notes, or serial notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest and other conditions of the bond, in their judgment thereon, and to further authorize the Selectmen to contract for and expend any State aid that may be available for this project. The authorization to borrow provided hereunder shall not lapse until five (5) years from the date of the passage of this article or take any other action relative thereto. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32. 3/5 Ballot Vote Required.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)

This Article has a tax impact of \$0.04.

Article 4: (Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC)) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the construction of an approximate fifty two hundred (5200) square foot building on the existing foundation, said structure to be established as a year round environmental, nature and teaching center. Said structure when completed shall house classrooms, meeting rooms and offices for use in accomplishing the mission of the Center, or take any other action relative thereto. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)

This Article has a tax impact of \$0.19.

Article 5: (Operating Budget) To see if the Town will raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth herein, totaling \$ 8,496,448.08. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$ 7,892,972.65 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law, the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This article does not include any other appropriation.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)
This Article has a tax impact of \$0.63.

Article 6: (Police Union) To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) reached between the Selectmen and the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees Union (AFSCME) **(Police Union)** and further to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy three thousand eight hundred ninety dollars and fifty two cents \$73,890.52 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year. Upon approval of this Article, said additional costs are to be transferred to the general operating budget of the Police Department, or take any other action relative thereto. (In the years 2007 & 2008 the cost items reflected here will be included in the operating budget.)

	COST ITEMS		
	2007	2008	2009
Wages	\$38,330.93	\$39,480.86	\$40,665.29
Benefits	\$16,128.06	\$16,952.77	\$17,822.67
Overtime	\$19,431.53	\$20,014.48	\$20,614.91
Total	\$73,890.52	\$76,448.11	\$79,102.87

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 3 to 2.)
This Article has a tax impact of \$0.06.

Article 7: (Fire Department Command Vehicle Replacement) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty three thousand dollars (\$33,000) for the purpose of purchasing and outfitting a four wheel drive SUV Command Vehicle to replace the current 1996 four wheel drive SUV for the Fire Department or take any action relative thereto. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee does not support this Article by a vote of 0 to 7.)
This Article has a tax impact of \$0.03.

Article 8: (Refurbish Fire Department Engine 5) To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of fifty five thousand dollars (\$55,000) to be used to refurbish the Fire Department's Engine 5 manufactured in 1991 or take any other action relative thereto. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)
This Article has a tax impact of \$0.04.

Article 9: (DPW Truck Replacement) To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a five (5) year municipal lease agreement for the sum of one hundred sixty one thousand one hundred dollars (\$161,100) for the purpose of acquiring a fully equipped ten-wheeled dump truck for the Public Works Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty two thousand two hundred dollars (\$32,200) for the first years payment for that purpose or take any other action relative thereto. The lease agreement contains a clause which will allow the Town to invalidate the lease if the town meeting fails to approve this annual rental (escape clause). This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen recommends (3-2) a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 3 to 2.)

This Article has a tax impact of \$0.02.

Article 10: (DPW Salt & Sand Storage Facility) To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of seventy one thousand dollars (\$71,000) for the purpose of constructing a 65' x 100' Hercules Truss Arch building to include environmentally safe winter salt/sand storage, which should allow for the storage of most of a winter's supply or take any other action relative thereto. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)

This Article has a tax impact of \$0.05.

Article 11: (Selectmen's Authority) To see whether, in accordance with RSA 80:80, (III), the Town will authorize the Selectmen to convey property received by tax deed on such conditions and terms as they, in their judgment, deem that justice may require, and that said authority, pursuant to RSA 80:80, (IV), shall continue in effect indefinitely until expressly rescinded, or take any other action relative thereto.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.)

This Article does not have a tax impact.

Article 12: (Summer Street Town Boundary Relocation) To see whether the Town will vote, pursuant to RSA 51:9, to adopt the Town boundary line change authorized by the passage of the New Hampshire General Court of HB 1248, at the 2006 session, which Town boundary line change will reflect the inclusion in the Town of Milford of certain lots and area on Summer Street which, heretofore, had been part of the Town of Amherst, and incorrectly assumed to be within the Town of Milford, or take any other action relative thereto. Pursuant to NH law this article requires a favorable 2/3rd supermajority for passage. A corresponding article is being voted upon by the Town of Milford.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)
This Article does not have a tax impact.

Article 13: (Information Technology Equipment Replacement Fund) To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchase of major computer system components, and/or critical software updates for all Town Departments, and to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) to be placed into this fund, and to further appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this Fund or take any other action relative thereto. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)
This Article has a tax impact of \$0.01.

Article 14: (Master Plan Funding) To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of funding revisions and rewrites to the Town of Amherst Master Plan, said Plan having been last rewritten in 1998 and to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed into this fund for the purpose of hiring outside consultants to rewrite and or assist in the rewriting of said plan, and to further appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this Fund or take any other action relative thereto. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)
This Article has a tax impact of \$0.02.

Article 15: (Forestview Cemetery Design/Layout (Formerly Cemetery Fields)) To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of designing and laying out Forestview Cemetery as a Municipal Cemetery and as appropriate hiring architects or other professionals to assist in this design and layout, and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed into this fund and to further appoint the Board of Cemetery Trustees as agents to expend from this Fund or take any other action relative thereto. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32. .

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)
This Article has a tax impact of \$0.01.

Article 16: (New Police Officer) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty eight thousand four hundred forty six dollars and sixteen cents \$28,446.16 for the purpose of hiring an additional full time police officer, and to further authorize the Selectmen, upon approval of this Article, to

insert it into this year's and future years budget as an annual expenditure, or take any other action relative thereto. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

Salary based on \$39,458 per year. Total for 6 months	\$19,728.80
Benefits	\$ 6,467.36
<u>Equipment</u>	<u>\$ 2,250.16</u>
Total	\$28,446.16

(The Board of Selectmen recommends (3-2) a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 3 to 2.)

This Article has a tax impact of \$0.02.

Article 17: (Public Access Television Equipment Fund) To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing equipment necessary to enhance the capabilities of the local access television network, and to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) to be placed into this fund, and to further appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this Fund or take any other action relative thereto. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)

This Article has a tax impact of \$0.01.

Article 18: (Department of Public Works Radio Upgrade) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty seven thousand dollars (\$27,000) for the purpose of upgrading the Department of Public Works Radio Equipment, and authorize the withdrawal from the Radio Conversion Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 4 to 1.)

This Article has no tax impact.

Article 19: (Discontinue Radio Conversion Capital Reserve Fund) To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Radio Conversion Capital Reserve Fund created in 2000 and appropriate up to forty thousand nine hundred fifty eight dollars and fifty nine cents (\$40,958.59) into a newly established Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund, said funds represent the balance of the Radio Conversion Fund with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, and to transfer the balance to the newly established Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority Vote Required) This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 5 to 0.)
This Article has no tax impact.

Article 20: (Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund) To see if the Town will vote to establish a Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing new and/or replacement communications equipment and appropriate up to forty thousand nine hundred fifty eight dollars and fifty nine cents (\$40,958.59) into the newly established Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund, said funds represent the balance of the Radio Conversion Capital Reserve Fund with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund in accordance with RSA 35:15 II. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 5 to 0.)
This Article has no tax impact.

Article 21: (Establishment of Revolving Fund for Public Safety Services) To see if the Town will vote to establish a Public Safety Services Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h. The money received from fees and charges for public safety services (e.g.: special events, highway construction, outside details et.al.) shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered to be part of the Town's general fund unreserved fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Board of Selectmen (no further town meeting approval is required). These funds may only be expended for public safety purposes as stated in RSA 31:95-h, and no expenditure shall be made in such a way as to require the expenditure of other town funds which have not been appropriated for that purpose. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)
This Article has no tax impact.

Article 22: (Authority to Lease) To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease, in accordance with RSA 41:11-a and on such conditions and terms that they deem appropriate a certain portion of town owned property at the Amherst Public Safety Center, said property more properly described as a portion of Tax Map 6 and Tax Lot 94, for the limited purpose of construction of a telecommunications tower, which will also provide antenna space for Amherst Emergency Services and further provide enhanced and more reliable communication to the aforementioned services, or take any other action relative thereto. .

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)
This Article has no tax impact.

Article 23: (Elderly and Blind Exemption) To see if the Town will vote to modify the elderly and blind exemptions from property tax in the Town of Amherst, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers to be as follows: For a person 65 years of age up to 74 years, \$88,000 (formerly \$62,000); for a person 75 years of age up to 79 years, \$132,000 (formerly \$93,000); for a person 80 years old or older, \$176,000 (formerly \$124,000) and for a blind person of any age \$43,000 (formerly \$30,000). To qualify a person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least five (5) years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five (5) years. In addition, the taxpayer must, for the elderly exemption only, have a net income of not more than \$36,760 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$52,000 and own net assets not in excess of \$150,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.)

This Article has no tax impact.

Article 24: (Veterans' Tax Credit – Board of Selectmen's Proposal) In the event that Article 25, which seeks to adopt the optional veterans tax credit in the amount of \$500 fails, shall the Town vote to expand the Veterans' Tax Credit from \$150.00 to \$300.00 per year in accordance with RSA 72:28. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Ways and Means Committee does not support this Article. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee does not support this Article by a vote of 1 to 4 to 1.)

This Article has a tax impact of \$0.06.

Article 25: (Veterans Tax Credit – By Petition) Shall the Town of Amherst adopt the optional veterans' tax credit in the amount of \$500 in accordance with the provisions of RSA 72:28 II? The optional veterans' tax credit in the amount of \$500 shall replace the standard veterans' tax credit in its entirety and shall not be in addition thereto. This is a Petitioned Warrant Article.

(The Board of Selectmen recommends (3-2) a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee does not support this Article by a vote of 1 to 4 to 1.)

This Article has a tax impact of \$0.13.

Article 26: (Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony – By Petition) Whereas the Framers intended that the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States would prohibit the establishment of religion by Congress while not prohibiting any mention of religion or religious traditions in civic dialog, shall the Town of Amherst – (1) Permit the use of the symbols and traditions of Christmas; and (2) Acknowledge that the illuminated and decorated evergreen tree displayed on the town Green during the Christmas season be referred to as a

Christmas Tree and the event which in recent years has been known as the "Tree Lighting Ceremony" be referred to as the "Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony". *The Board of Selectmen does not support this Article.*

Article 27: (Rescind Domestic Animal Ordinance – By Petition) We the undersigned citizens of Amherst wish to preserve and promote the rural character and historic charm of our Town. The Amherst Master Plan calls for the rural character of the town to be maintained. Towards this mandate, we request that the Wilkins Pond Geese have the right to public roads, conservation land and other property with owner's consent. We suggest that the Ordinance recently passed by the Board of Selectmen is not in the Town's best interest and should be rescinded immediately.

Article 28: (Dropping of Olson Fines and Fees – By Petition) To see if the Town will vote that all fines and fees and interest penalties, including attorney fees imposed on the Olson's for any violations, brought against the Olson's by the Town of Amherst on matters relating to a long-standing dispute between the Olson's and the Amherst School District be dropped without prejudice with the result of no monies having to be paid by the Olson's to either the Town of Amherst, NH or the Amherst School Board or Amherst School District.
(The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)

Article 29: (Closing Article) To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.